



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

City of San Diego  
Planning & Development Review  
**Building Development Review**  
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# **Building Newsletter 7-7**

## **Sanitary Requirements for Shaft Enclosures in Residential Construction**

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes  
1998 Uniform Building Code: Chapter 7  
Revision Date: July 1999

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### **I. Kitchen Exhaust Systems**

- A. Kitchen exhaust ducts must be of approved metal construction with smooth interior surfaces. Such ducts must be continuous to the outside of the building and must be equipped with back-draft dampers.
- B. Kitchen air ducts must be substantially airtight and must comply with the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Mechanical Code.

### **II. Bathroom Exhaust Systems**

- A. Bathroom exhaust ducts must be continuous to the outside of the building and must be equipped with back-draft dampers. Such ducts may exhaust into the same shaft enclosure as clothes dryer exhaust ducts.
- B. Bathroom air ducts must be substantially airtight and must comply with the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Mechanical Code.
- C. If a shaft enclosure used to exhaust air from a bathroom is lined with gypsum wallboard, the wallboard shall be an approved water-resistant wallboard, except where the bathroom contains only water closets, urinals and/or lavatories.

- D. Shaft enclosures must terminate at a building's exterior as required in Sections 1202.2.1 and 1203.3 of the Building Code. The duct termination can not be closer than 3 feet from a property line per section 504.6 of the Mechanical Code.

### **III. Clothes Dryer Moisture Exhaust Systems — Refer to Building Newsletter 3-11.**

- A. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts must be of approved metal construction and must have smooth interior surfaces, however, approved flexible duct connectors not more than 6 feet in length may be used with domestic dryer exhausts. Flexible duct connectors shall not be concealed within the construction of the building per Section 504.3 of the Mechanical Code.
- B. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts must be substantially airtight and must comply with the provisions of Sections 504.3 and 908 of the Mechanical Code.
- C. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts must be continuous to the outside of the building and must be equipped with back-draft dampers. Such ducts may exhaust into the same shaft enclosure as bathroom exhaust ducts.